

REMARKS

Applicants request clarification from the Examiner regarding the Official Action of June 7, 2007.

In a Preliminary Amendment dated July 26, 2004, Applicants cancelled original claims 1-19 and replaced with new claims 20-39. Therefore, Applicants are confused as to why the Examiner has requested an election of claims 1-20 since claims 1-19 are no longer pending in the present application. Although new claim 20 is pending, the Examiner does not make reference to new claims 21-39.

According to the Restriction Requirement, Group I directed to claims 1-10 are drawn to a method of treating DMARD-resistant rheumatoid arthritis. Original claims 1-10 and new claims 20-30 do not define this indication.

According to the Restriction Requirement, Group II directed to claims 11-15 are drawn to a method of treating rheumatoid arthritis. Original claims 11-14 were directed to a method of treating rheumatoid arthritis. Original claim 15 was directed to a combination. New claims 30-34 are drawn to a method of treating rheumatoid arthritis.

According to the Restriction Requirement, Group III directed to 16-20 are drawn to a combination. Original claim 15 should have been included in Group III. New claims 35-39 are drawn to a combination.

Election/Restriction


Since there are number of inaccuracies with the Official Action of June 7, 2007, Applicants are not certain how to proceed with provisionally electing a Group of claims. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants would like the Examiner to consider the claims 25-29, which is believe to be closest to Group II.

In addition, claims 20-24 and 30-39 have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications related to the subject matter of Groups I and III.

Entry of this Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 430
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(862) 778-7898


Oona A. Manzari
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 48,152

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